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Your twice-a-month e-newsletter from Citygate Network

Useful news and information for members

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FIND OUT HOW



Country Singer Tracy Lawrence Joins Palm Springs Guest List

Legendary country music singer, songwriter, and record producer Tracy Lawrence will be part of the program at Citygate Network's Annual Conference and Exposition, June 3–6, in the Southern California desert. For more than a dozen years, Tracy has organized and run the annual Mission: Possible Turkey Fry at Thanksgiving at Nashville Rescue Mission (Nashville, Tennessee). Following his involvement with Citygate Network in 2016, he and his team added similar events in Dallas and Lexington. Tracy's vision is to see Turkey Fries in many more cities in the days ahead. If you are in Palm Springs, you will have a chance to personally engage with Tracy and invite him to your city.

Check out a [video](#) related to the work that Tracy does.

Have You Registered Yet?

Speaking of our annual conference, have you checked out the program for yourself and your team members yet? This is a one-of-a-kind, once-a-year, everything-in-one place event for leaders on every level at rescue missions and kindred ministries. Everything at the event—education, networking, services, products, and more—is geared toward helping you get better at what you do every day.

Please go to www.citygatenetwork.org/2019conference for details and to register. Be sure you don't miss this event created just for you.

Need Help Getting to Palm Springs?

Last call! If you missed the scholarship deadline and are still struggling to get to Citygate Network's Annual Conference, a limited amount of additional scholarship money has been made available. Please apply [here](#) by April 8, a week from today.

Citygate Network President Speaks at Wichita Dedication

John Ashmen recently spoke at the dedication of the new, 24-unit, supportive housing complex at **Union Rescue Mission** (Wichita, Kansas). The new facility is named [Eagles Wing](#). The event also honored outgoing CEO Denny Bender, retiring after seven years of service. The also-new adjoining office wing was named in his honor. Denny's retirement created a vacancy in the Heartland District Cabinet where he served as president; Chad Young from **Salina Rescue Mission** (Salina, Kansas) has now moved up from his vice president position to fill that role. Rob Swiers, CEO of **New Life Center** (Fargo, North Dakota), has accepted an appointment to serve as the district vice president.

Prior to being in Wichita, John spent time with the board and staff at **Jesus House** (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma), a growing member ministry where Michael Bateman is the CEO. John also stopped to visit the folks at City Rescue Mission in Oklahoma City. This week, John is in Asheville, North Carolina, speaking at an event for Citygate Network member **Knox Area Rescue Ministries** (Knoxville, Tennessee).

We Want to Honor Your Mission's Media Work

Please remember to enter Citygate Network's 2019 Media Innovation Competition before the April 18 deadline. This is your opportunity to enter your mission's best work in the following categories: annual report, general brochure, newsletter/magazine, website, PSA/commercial, extended video, social media, logo, and photo. An Award of Excellence, an Award of Merit, and up to three Honorable Mention winners will be presented in each category for each budget size group. Citygate Network will recognize winners at the 2019 Annual Conference and Exposition in Palm Springs, California. Visit the Media Innovation Competition (MIC) [entry page](#) to make your entries and to access the competition rules, judging criteria, and last year's winners.

Ripple Effect Program Begins in June

In order to maximize foundation dollars and expand the window for ministry boards to jump in the water, Citygate Network is tweaking the Ripple Effect schedule for 2019. Our first cohort for this board acceleration program will meet in the Grand Rapids,

Michigan, area, June 27–28, and our second and final cohort of 2019 will meet July 11–12 in the Los Angeles, California, area. The program is for ministry CEOs and up to four board members. The \$2,400/ministry cost is inclusive of the two-day conference, program, lodging, meals, coaching visits, webinar, and consultation. Topics include healthy governance, discernment, clarifying roles, effective board development, resource raising, outcomes, succession planning, and more.

For additional details, contact Ripple Effect Program Director Ed Morgan, at ed@inspirationalleadership.com or (917) 576-6604. To register now, visit our [events page](#) and select the Ripple Effect cohort location you are interested in joining.

Additional Classes Added to Abuse Recovery Certificate Training

The first Certificate Program on Abuse Recovery training that Citygate Network offered through ARMS (Abuse Recovery Ministry and Services) filled up, so we offered a second—and that filled up. So now we've added a third. It starts May 22. This affordable 13-week course explores the many types of abuse women commonly experience and prepares participants to lead those women from a life of brokenness, doubt, and fear into a life that is filled with the hope of Christ. The step-by-step approach of ARMS' *Her Journey* program gives you the tools necessary to facilitate groups and work with women one-to-one. Read additional details about the course and register now for the next course [here](#).

Group Urges Additional Funding for Puerto Rico Disaster Assistance

Citygate Network's President John Ashmen is on the steering committee of the Circle of Protection, a group of ministry/denominational leaders focused on nutritional needs of vulnerable people in North America and around the world. Last week, the group signed a letter to members of Congress, calling for them to pass a disaster assistance package with \$600 million for Puerto Rico's Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP). In Puerto Rico, NAP operates in place of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). However, as a block grant, NAP doesn't expand or contract in response to need. As Puerto Rico continues to recover from the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, the disaster food assistance funding has been seriously lacking. Additional help is critical to helping families meet basic food needs.

Federal Overtime Rules Might Be Updated This Year

For our U.S. members, please note that a new federal overtime regulation is on the horizon that could make more than a million additional Americans eligible for overtime—which might mean a steep hike in costs for employers, including missions and kindred ministries.

According to a Gusto.com [report](#), on March 7, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL)

issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking regarding overtime pay. Specifically, the DOL plans to raise the salary level for employees who are counted as “exempt,” or unable to earn overtime pay. The proposal would take the salary threshold from \$455 per week (as established in 2004) to \$679 per week. That’s a new qualifying salary level of \$35,308 per year. The proposed rule also calls for periodic reviews and updates to the salary threshold.

Citygate Network will continue to monitor these and other developments and provide updates when issues warrant.

Looking Down the Street...

- Please welcome into organizational membership **New York City Relief** (Elizabeth, New Jersey), where Juan Galloway serves as executive director.
- Also welcome into organizational membership **Kingsburg Community Assistance Program** (Kingsburg, California). Aida Rushing is the executive director.
- Doug Nolte is the new CEO at **Union Rescue Mission** (Wichita, Kansas). Doug left a 26-year career in law enforcement to take this new assignment.
- Rick Redding, CEO at **Reno-Sparks Gospel Mission** (Reno, Nevada) passed away March 24 due to complications from heart surgery. Rick, a certified substance abuse counselor and family counselor, and veteran executive director, was leading the ministry into some exciting new ventures. Please be in prayer for his wife, Charlotte, and their family. Also be in prayer for the staff, and especially Rick’s brother-in-law, Luis Santoni, as he steps into the role of acting director. Let Luis know you are praying for the family, and him as he now takes charge. Services for Rick are scheduled for April 5.



Christian Refugee Who Fled Persecution Wins Chess Championship

Thousands of dollars in donations are now pouring in to help find a home for a homeless 8-year-old Christian refugee who fled persecution with his family from Islamist sect Boko Haram in Nigeria, after he won New York State’s primary chess championship. The boy, Tanitoluwa Adewumi, is currently living with his family in a homeless shelter in Manhattan and only started playing chess just over a year ago, according to an [article](#) in *The Christian Post*. Tanitoluwa’s chess teacher launched a GoFundMe campaign to help raise money so Tanitoluwa’s family can find a home. As of last Friday

morning, nearly 5,000 people had donated \$254,035 and counting.

Opioid Manufacturer Pays Multi-Million Settlement in Oklahoma

The first of more than 1,600 lawsuits pending against Purdue Pharma, the maker of the opioid OxyContin, has been settled. According to a [report](#) by Nonprofit Quarterly, the company agreed to pay \$270 million to fund addiction research and treatment in Oklahoma and pay legal fees. The state of Oklahoma is home to nearly 4 million people in a country of 328 million. If Purdue were to make similar per capita payments to the other 49 states, the total price tag of a settlement at that rate would exceed \$22 billion.

Seventh Circuit Rules on Tax Free Housing Payments to Clergy

In a long-awaited decision, the Seventh Circuit Court has ruled that Code Section 107(2) is constitutional, overturning a 2017 ruling that said the section violated the Establishment Clause. Code Sec 107(2) allows the exclusion from taxable income of cash housing allowances to “ministers of the gospel.” According to an [article](#) in *Forbes*, Judge Barbara Crabb’s 2017 ruling that the section violated the Establishment Clause. Code Sec 107(2) allows the exclusion from taxable income of cash housing allowances to “ministers of the gospel.” This is the second time Seventh Circuit has overturned Judge Crabb on this issue.



Bump in Child Benefits Fuels Poverty Rate Drop in Canada

Fewer Canadians are living under the official poverty line than at any other time in the last decade, Statistics Canada reported Tuesday. The agency said the credit for the drop is the result of a combination of a buoyant economy and new child benefit laws. According to a [report](#) by CTV News, the national statistics office says that in 2017, the most recent year available, 3.4 million Canadians, or 9.5 percent of the population, lived below the poverty line the government officially adopted late last year—including 622,000 children—which is the lowest the agency reported going back to 2006.

U.S. Begins Organ Transplants from Living Donors Who Have HIV

Surgeons in Baltimore have performed what’s thought to be the world’s first kidney transplant from a living donor with HIV, a milestone for people with the virus—and one that could free up space on the transplant waiting list for everyone. According to a [report](#) by the Associated Press, there’s no count of how many HIV-positive patients are among the 113,000 people on the nation’s waiting list for an organ transplant. HIV-positive patients can receive transplants from HIV-negative donors just like anyone else. Only in the last few years, spurred by some pioneering operations in South Africa, have doctors begun transplanting organs from deceased donors with HIV into patients who also have the virus, organs that once would have been thrown away.

CDC Monitors Measles Outbreaks Across the Country

A whopping 314 reported cases of measles have been confirmed as of March 21, compared to 374 cases confirmed in all of 2018, according to the CDC. New York's Rockland County issued an unprecedented state of emergency last week, banning unvaccinated minors from public places after 153 cases of measles have been confirmed there so far. According to a [report](#) by Yahoo! News, health officials in New York City have reported 181 cases there, while Washington state has seen 74 cases. Much of the measles cases in New York have been concentrated among children of Orthodox Jewish families, many of whom attend religious schools where the vaccination rates are below 95 percent; that's the threshold considered necessary to maintain immunity among the community, known as herd immunity, according to Kaiser Health News.



[Biblical Pastoral Counselor](#): Union Gospel Mission (Spokane), Spokane, WA

[Breakfast Cook](#): Seattle's Union Gospel Mission, Seattle, WA

[Care Support Specialist](#): Light of Life Ministries, Inc., Pittsburgh, PA

[Chief Financial Officer](#): Buffalo City Mission, Buffalo, NY

[Chief Financial Officer](#): St. Matthew's House, Naples, FL

[Development and Database Corrdinator](#): Union Gospel Mission, Dallas, TX

[Development Director](#): The Gospel Rescue Mission, Inc., Muskogee, OK

[Development Director](#): Open Door Mission, Glens Falls, NY

[Director of Emergency Shelter Services](#): Denver Rescue Mission, Denver, CO

[Director of Programs](#): Light of life Ministries, Inc., Pittsburgh,PA

[DIRECTOR of SAN FERNANDO VALLEY RESCUE MISSION](#): Rescue Mission Alliance, Oxnard, CA

[Donor Development Professional](#): Madera Rescue Mission, Madera, CA

[Executive Director](#): Rescue Mission of Utica, Inc., Utica, NY

[Executive Director](#): Klamath Falls Gospel Mission, Klamath Falls, OR

[Extended Care Program Manager](#): Seattle's Union Gospel Mission, Seattle, WA

[Food Services Manager](#): Turlock Gospel Mission, Turlock, CA

[Justin's Place Manager](#): St. Matthew's House, Naples, FL

[Major Gifts Director](#): Union Gospel Mission, Dallas, TX

[Major Gifts Officer](#): Seattle's Union Gospel Mission, Seattle, WA

[Men's Ministry Night Manager](#): Good Samaritan Mission, Jackson, WY

[Outreach Specialist](#): Seattle's Union Gospel Mission, Seattle, WA

[Public Relations Manager](#): Seattle's Union Gospel Mission, Seattle, WA

[Residential Coordinator Cornerstone Manor Facility](#): Buffalo City Mission, Buffalo, NY

[Salesforce Data Analyst](#): Atlanta Mission, Atlanta, GA

[Shelter Manager](#): Turlock Gospel Mission, Turlock, CA

[Shelter Supervisor](#): Open Door Mission, Glens Falls, NY

[Vice President of Development](#): Career Cross Training, Colorado Springs, CO

[Volunteer Engagement Specialist](#): Seattle's Union Gospel Mission, Seattle, WA

[Weekend Cook](#): Seattle's Union Gospel Mission, Seattle, WA

[Women and Children's Program Manager](#): Hope Gospel Mission, Eau Claire, WI

[Women's Program Manager - Laura's Home](#): The City Mission, Cleveland, OH

[Women's Recovery Counselor](#): Union Gospel Mission (Spokane), Spokane, WA



Priceless Contents

“We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves” (2 Corinthians 4:7).

The most valuable message of the Bible is that of salvation through our Savior, Jesus Christ. And according to plan, He has entrusted this message squarely on our shoulders to deliver to the world.

But spreading a message of hope to others isn't always easy. Life is difficult, and we can often feel like we're at the end of our rope. In these times, we must remember that God never abandons us. If you ever feel inadequate or even worthless, remember that we were all wonderfully made (Psalm 139:14) with a divine purpose. And though we may be weak and fallible by nature, God's power—the same power that brought light into the darkness of space—lives within us.

God designed us to spread His Good News. He grants us the power to do great works in His name. And as long as we stay plugged into that power by regularly reading His Word and allowing His Spirit to renew us continually, people will see God through us.

Devotional by Mark Henderson; used with permission of Daily Devotionals, shortdailydevotions.com.

To contribute: If you would like to write a devotional thought for StreetLight, please make it about 200 words and include at least one Bible verse or passage, and submit via [email](#).

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